SUBJECT No. 118.

Creation of facilities to private candidates for the Lower Secondary Examination.

Mr. Venkataramana Sastry, Chamarajnagar Taluk.

Mr. Venkatasamy Iyer.—There are two conditions operating against the private candidate appearing for the Lower Secondary examination. The first is that he should be at least 14 years old and the second that he should produce a certificate from the Head-Master of a Government school. These restrictions are very hard and should be removed. Last year, these conditions did not operate.

Inspector-General of Education.—The second clause will not operate this year also, but the first clause is still in force.

Mr. Abbas Khan.—The restrictions should be abolished. They are causing hardship to private students.

Inspector-General of Education.—It is rather a difficult matter. The Education Board discussed it at length and they were of opinion that the restriction about age was quite necessary. If necessary, the question will be placed before them again.

Third Member of Council.—The object is to discourage private students going up for examinations with imperfect preparation. Such a thing will have a prejudicial effect on them. We want a certain amount of efficiency in the students appearing for the examination.

Mr. Karnick Krishnamurthy Rao.—In places where there are no A. V. schools, the parents do not always find it convenient to send their boys to distant places for study. If, however, they keep a private teacher and get their boys trained well, there does not seem to be any objection to give them the same treatment as in the case of boys studying in the school. Moreover, the minimum of passing marks for private students is pitched sufficiently high. In regard to efficiency, we know that in several schools nearly 75 per cent of the boys fail. Where is the efficiency in the schools then? We therefore want some encouragement to private students also which is enjoyed by students appearing from the school.

Third Member of Council.—There is no such thing as higher minimum in the case of private students.

Mr. Karnick Krishnamurthy Rao.—But they have to pay higher examination fees. When the student engages a teacher and prepares well, why not

give him facilities for appearing for the examination ? The question of efficiency should not arise in such a case.

Inspector-General of Education.—We will refer the matter to the Examination Board. The restriction is placed because many pupils are anxious to sit for the examination with imperfect preparation.

Mr. S. Venkatesaiya.—This is because you are asking whether a candidate seeking an employment has at least passed the Lower Secondary examination. If you say that the Lower Secondary examination will not be recognised for public service, there will be no such difficulty. Until then, the clamour for passing the Lower Secondary examination will be great.

Dewan.—Will be referred to the Local Examination Board.

SUBJECT No. 119.

1. Abolition of the Kannada Lower Secondary Examination.

2. Change of Curriculum in Elimentary Schools.

Messrs. A. Ananthiah, Shimoga Taluk; A. Shamanna, Shimoga Municipality and C. Subba Rao, Shimoga District Board.

Mr. A. Ananthiah.—In village schools, to appear for the Lower Secondary examination, the student has to study for 7 years and to study again for the English Lower Secondary examination, the boy takes another 5 years and thus it takes 12 years for him to pass the English Lower Secondary examination. On the other hand, in the city areas, they will pass it much sooner *viz.*, in about 9 years. Thus, according to the present curriculum, education in the villages will have the effect of being discouraged. My idea, therefore, is that the Kannada examination at that stage should be abolished.

Inspector-General of Education.—The curriculum is discussed in the Educational Memorandum according to which Government think that there should be only one kind of middle schools. The question of abolition of the Kannada examination need not therefore be discussed here. As the middle schools are replaced by A. V. schools, the Kannada Lower Secondary examination will automatically disappear as the process of conversion goes on. The question raised by you is whether the Kannada Lower Secondary examination at that stage should not be abolished. According to the Memorandum, it will be put in such a situation that it will automatically disappear in course of time.

Mr. V. Shamiengar.—The question has already been discussed once and it was decided that the Lower Secondary examination should not be abolished,